

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 06633 271633Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /080 W

----- 017886

R 271500Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4723

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6633

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRIMIN DEMIREL

REF: (A) ANKARA 6455 (DTG 210855Z AUG 76), (B) ANKARA 6488
(DTG 231515Z AUG 76), (C) ANKARA 6520 (DTG 241430Z AUG 76)

1. DURING THE NEARLY TWO WEEKS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WAS
DEALING WITH THE AEGEAN QUESTION, PRIMIN DEMIREL MADE
A SERIES OF STATEMENTS IN WHICH HE ASSERTED THAT THE GREEK
ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN SHOULD BE CALLED AEGEAN RATHER THAN
GREEK ISLANDS (REFTELS). CHALLENGED BY OPPOSITION LEADER
ECEVIT AND CAUTIONED BY THE OPPOSITION PRESS THAT HIS
STATEMENTS WEAKENED TURKEY'S POSITION BY SUGGESTING EXPAN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 06633 271633Z

SIONIST AIMS, DEMIREL DENIED ANY EXPANSIONIST INTENT BUT HE

REFUSED TO ALTER HIS STAND.

2. UNTIL HE MADE THIS SERIES OF STATEMENTS, DEMIREL HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED IN HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AEGEAN PROBLEM. HE HAD, IN FACT, BEEN CRITICIZED BY ECEVIT FOR NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY AGGRESSIVE IN ASSERTING TURKEY'S RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN. DEMIREL'S DECISION TO ABANDON HIS MORE MODERATE APPROACH SEEMS TO US TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON A DESIRE TO OUT-FLANK ECEVIT ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL FRONT BY TAKING A MORE EXTREME PUBLIC POSITION ON AN ISSUE THAT MANY TURKS CONSIDER A CRUCIAL TEST OF TURKISH NATIONAL RIGHTS. IN TURKEY, AS ELSEWHERE, A MAJOR FACTOR IN MANY FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS IS THEIR ANTICIPATED DOMESTIC POLITICAL EFFECT. IN FACT, IF ECEVIT AND HIS PARTY HAD NOT PRESSED THEIR CHARGES THAT DEMIREL WAS NEGLECTING TURKEY'S AEGEAN RIGHTS, THE TIMING AND THE AREA OF OPERATION OF THE SISMİK MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT -- AND LESS CONTROVERSIAL. WITH HIS RECENT STATEMENTS, DEMIREL HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME GOTTEN OUT IN FRONT OF ECEVIT AND HE WILL BE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON THAT POSITION. ON THE OTHER HAND, ECEVIT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO CONCEDE THE GAME. DESPITE HIS RECENT "STATESMANLIKE" CRITICISM OF DEMIREL'S "EXPANSIONIST" STATEMENTS, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE PLANS TO BACK AWAY FROM HIS EARLIER TACTIC OF CHARGING THAT DEMIREL IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO PROTECT TURKISH RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THERE MAY BE ANOTHER FACTOR BEHIND DEMIREL'S DECISION TO ASSUME A MORE BELLIGERENT APPROACH TO THE ISSUE OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS. TURKISH LEADERS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, HAVE BEEN ANGERED BY THE BUILD-UP OF ARMS ON THE GREEK ISLANDS OFF THE TURKISH COAST DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS. THEY ARE ANGERED FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER THIS BUILD-UP TO REPRESENT A THREAT TO TURKISH SECURITY. THEY ARE ALSO ANGERED, HOWEVER, BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE A DOUBLE STANDARD USED BY THEIR WESTERN ALLIES IN JUDGING THE ACTIONS OF TURKEY AND GREECE. TURKEY HAS BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO REPEATED CRITICISM FOR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS INTERVENTION IN 1974. (TURKEY STUBBORNLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 06633 271633Z

REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALIDITY OF THIS CRITICISM -- EVEN WITH REGARD TO ITS SECOND CYPRUS INTERVENTION.) IN CONTRAST, THE GREEKS LOOK UPON THE MILITARIZATION OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS BY GREECE AS A BLATANT, UNARGUABLE VIOLATION OF TWO TREATIES WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITH VIRTUALLY NO CRITICISM.

4. REGARDLESS OF THE REASONS FOR DEMIREL'S STATEMENTS, THEY HAVE NOW BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC DEBATE BETWEEN

TURKEY AND GREECE. DESPITE SOME DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF THOSE COMMENTS, DEMIREL'S DEMANDS THAT THE ISLANDS BE DEMILITARIZED STRUCK A RESONANT CHORD AMONG THE TURKISH PUBLIC AND PRESS. ONE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER EDITORIALY COMMENTED AUGUST 27 THAT DEMILITARIZATION OF THE ISLANDS SHOULD BE A PRECONDITION FOR RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE. WHILE OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT WILL PROBABLY NOT TAKE SUCH AN EXTREME POSITION, HE MAY WELL INSIST THAT DEMIREL FOLLOW THROUGH ON HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT DEMILITARIZATION. THIS ISSUE HAS ALREADY BECOME A STANDARD PART OF THE TURKISH LITANY OF GREEK SINS AND IT HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING THE BASIS OF A MAJOR TURKISH DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE.

MACOMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, AEGEAN, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA06633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-0466
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaaltz.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 6455, 76 ANKARA 6488
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANALYSIS OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRIMIN DEMIREL
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU, (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006